



1/01

Gray Davis, Governor
State of California

Mary D. Nichols, Secretary for Resources
The Resources Agency

Thomas M. Hannigan, Director
Department of Water Resources

FISHING

—ALONG THE—

SWP

THE STATE WATER PROJECT



Northern California, the San Francisco Bay area, the San Joaquin Valley, the Central Coast, and Southern California. Other SWP purposes include flood control, power generation, recreation, fish and wildlife enhancement, and water quality improvement in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.



Twenty-nine urban and agricultural water agencies have long-term contracts for delivery of SWP water. Approximately 70 percent goes to urban users and 30 percent to agricultural users.

These SWP contracting agencies are repaying the full cost, plus interest, of financing, building, operating and maintaining the SWP water storage and delivery system.

Planned, designed, constructed, operated and maintained by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), the State Water Project (SWP) is the largest state-built, multipurpose water project in the United States.

The SWP, spanning more than 600 miles from Northern California to Southern California, includes 32 storage facilities, 17 pumping plants, 3 pumping-generating plants, 5 hydroelectric power plants, and approximately 660 miles of canals and pipelines, which includes the 444-mile long California Aqueduct.

The main purpose of the SWP is water supply—that is, to divert and store water during wet periods and distribute it to areas of need in



FISHING ALONG THE SWP

The SWP provides the angler with varied opportunities for year-round fishing. You are welcome to fish at 12 SWP reservoirs or at 16 designated fishing access sites along the California Aqueduct's more than 400 miles of open canals. (See 16 individual maps on reverse side.) Each site provides parking, and some sites have restrooms. The Aqueduct's fishing sites begin south of Stockton and end near Los Angeles.

Northern California

Depending on the area, you can catch many different kinds of fish. In Northern California SWP reservoirs, you can fish for chinook salmon, three species of trout, four species of bass, catfish, bluegill, and crappie. Anglers in the Upper Feather River Lakes of Antelope, Frenchman, and Davis catch fish such as rainbow trout, brook trout, and brown trout. In Lake Oroville, anglers enjoy one of the best bass fisheries in the western United States, with high catches of spotted bass, along with largemouth, smallmouth, and redeye bass. Chinook salmon abound in Lake Oroville as well, along with brown trout, catfish, bluegill, and crappie.

Central California

Anglers at SWP reservoirs in Central California, such as San Luis and Bethany Reservoirs, fish for trophy-size striped bass, largemouth bass, catfish, bluegill, and crappie. At O'Neill Forebay, the world's largest landlocked striped bass was caught.



Southern California

Rainbow trout are a popular sport fish in Southern California SWP reservoirs. Castaic Lake has largemouth bass, which has the current lake record as 50 pounds and 2 ounces. At Castaic, Pyramid, and Silverwood lakes, you can find striped bass, largemouth bass, crappie, bluegill, and trout. Catfish are found at Silverwood, Castaic, Perris, and Quail lakes. Quail Lake, where walk in fishing with no boats is allowed, also offers striped bass and bluegill. Lake Perris, the southernmost SWP reservoir, currently has green sunfish, bluegill, trout, and championship spotted bass population.

California Aqueduct

The California Aqueduct contains fish such as striped bass and catfish. The California Aqueduct, which begins in the north at Banks Pumping Plant and ends in the south at Lake Perris, is a 444-mile long, concrete canal built to convey water to its many destinations.

Operated by the Department of Water Resources, the California Aqueduct's water looks calm on the surface, but there are fast currents that can carry you away quickly. The water is deep—up to 30 feet in some places—enough to cover a whole house. It is an effective way to move water, but it is not a safe place to swim and play.

Remember that the Department of Fish and Game's fishing regulations apply throughout the SWP. Please obey the regulations for the area you are in. You can obtain a copy of the regulations where you buy your fishing license.

FISHING SAFETY TIPS

When fishing, always remember the fishing safety tips, including the drownproofing method.

Drownproofing Method

- If you fall in the water, stay calm. If you are at the Aqueduct, look for the nearest downstream safety ladder or float line. Swim or float to the ladder to climb out, or grab the line and pull yourself to the bank.
- If you are not at the Aqueduct and are unable to locate a ladder or line, use the “drownproofing” method to stay afloat. First, relax your body in the water. Let the back of your head and your shoulders come to the surface. Next, pull your knees tightly into your chest and “tread” water with your arms. Every five to ten seconds, raise your face out of the water and take a deep breath. Repeat the breathing as you continue to tread water with your knees up. This method, which will keep you afloat for a long time, will not tire you as much as swimming.

Fishing Safety on SWP Reservoirs

When fishing at any of the 12 SWP reservoirs, you should remember to:

- **Wear a life preserver or jacket.** Children should wear life preservers at all times.
- **Observe all warning signs.** They are there to tell you of dangers.
- **Don't climb over or around fences, or trespass on posted areas.**
- **Watch out for poisonous snakes.**
- **Never fish alone.**



Fishing Safety on The California Aqueduct

Fishing is allowed along the California Aqueduct but that, too, can be dangerous. When you fish along the Aqueduct heed all reservoir fishing safety tips listed above, plus these tips about Aqueduct dangers:

- When you fish, **stand back from the Aqueduct's sloping concrete sides.** They are steep, slippery, and difficult to climb. You could slide right into the water.
- **Wear rubber-soled shoes** for safe footing at the Aqueduct.
- If you go to the Aqueduct to fish, **look around for the safety ladders (A) and lines. (B)** Safety ladders along both sides of the Aqueduct are spaced 500 feet apart and marked by bright yellow paint. The safety lines are strung on plastic floats, close to bridges and other structures that cross the Aqueduct. These ladders and lines can save your life.
- **Do not go into the water** to land a fish, recover fishing gear, or for any other reason. It's too dangerous.
- **Take your own drinking water.** The Aqueduct water has not been treated, and is not safe to drink.
- **Don't play close to the Aqueduct.**
- **Do not climb structures or fish from bridges crossing the Aqueduct.** These are not safe fishing spots.



**Help spread the word about these fishing safety tips—
YOU COULD SAVE A LIFE!**

FISHING SITES ON THE CALIFORNIA AQUEDUCT

The following maps are the 16 designated fishing access sites along the California Aqueduct. The sites are generally in remote areas with limited accessibility.

MORE INFORMATION

For more fishing information, contact the Department of Fish and Game in:

- Northern California at (530) 225-2300
- Central California at (707) 944-5500, and
- Southern California at (858) 467-4201.

For more information about the State Water Project and accessibility, call the Department of Water Resources' Office of Water Education at 1-800-272-8869.

Visit DWR's Web site at <http://www.dwr.water.ca.gov/>

For TTY phone service, call (916) 653-6226.

If you need this publication in an alternate form, contact the Office of Water Education at 1-800-272-8869.



1 Grant Line Road Site



2 Niels Hansen Site



1-16 AQUEDUCT ACCESS SITES (See detailed maps)

10 Avenal Cutoff Site







